B A R M O U T H

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and the

SANITARY INSPECTOR

For the Year
ended
31st December, 1954

BARMOUTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report of the District Medical Officer of Health for the year 1954

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE BARMOUTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Health Report for the year ended 31st December, 1954.

The Registrar General's mid-year estimate of the population showed an increase of ten on the previous year.

There were twelve fewer births than in 1953 and once again no case of infant mortality.

There was an increase of eight in the number of deaths.

The deaths from cancer remained at the same figure as the previous year (five) and there was one death from Tuberculosis.

Diseases of the Heart and Circulatory system accounted for twenty-two deaths.

One case of Meningitis was notified, and there were no cases of food poisoning.

During the year a survey of the housing of all applicants on the Council's Housing List was made.

Housing progress was satisfactory - 46 houses were completed.

I wish to thank Mr. Price for his co-operation.

I am,

Your Obedient Servant,

EVAN RICHARDS,

M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of Urban District in Acres	1,347
Rateable Value	£17,451
Population (Registrar General's figures)	2,330
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£66
Number of inhabited houses (according to the Rate Books) at end of year	955

COMPARABILITY FACTORS:

Births	1.10
Deaths	0.78

VITAL STATISTICS

Nett Births (Live and Still)	23
Births (Live)	23
Births (Still)	Nil
LIVE BIRTH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION	9.87

LIVE BIRTHS: 23

	Males	Females
Total	10	13
Legitimate	10	12
Illegitimate	-	1

Illegitimate Birth Rate (Percentage of Total Live Births) 4.35%

DEATHS:

Total Number 41

Males - 20 Females - 21

Rate per 1,000 population 17.57

1953 figures 14.22)

Males - 17 Females - 16)

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR: Nil.

Total		Nil
	Males	Females
Total ...	Nil	Nil
Legitimate	Nil	Nil
Illegitimate	Nil	Nil

Infant Mortality (Rate per 1,000 Live Births)	Nil
1953 figures	Nil
Deaths of Legitimate Infants Mortality (per 1,000 live births)	Nil
Deaths of Illegitimate Infants Mortality (per 1,000 live births)	Nil

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER FOUR WEEKS:

	Males	Females
Total	Nil	Nil
Legitimate	Nil	Nil
Illegitimate	Nil	Nil

MATERNAL MORTALITY:

Deaths connected with childbirth and pregnancy	Nil

DEATHS FROM CANCER:

Total - 5	
Rate per 1,000 population	2.15

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS:

Total - 1	
Rate per 1,000 population	0.43

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

(1) PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY:

One Medical Officer of Health.
One Sanitary Inspector holding appointment of Sanitary Inspector/Surveyor.

(2) LABORATORY FACILITIES:

Water Analysis (Chemical) carried out by the Public Analyst, Chester.
Water (bacteriological examination) done by the Public Health Laboratory, Aberystwyth.
Milk (tests for cleanliness, keeping quality and Tubercle Bacilli) also carried out by the Public Health Laboratory at no charge to the Local Authority.

(3) AMBULANCE FACILITIES:

One Ambulance is stationed at Barmouth.

(4) INFANT WELFARE CLINICS:

Held at Chapel Vestry, Park Road, fortnightly.

(5) ANTE NATAL CLINICS:

Held at the Cottage Hospital, Dolgelley - twice a month.

(6) ORTHOPAEDIC CLINIC:

Held at the Cottage Hospital, Dolgelley twice a month.

(7) TUBERCULOSIS CLINIC:

Held at the Cottage Hospital, Dolgelley - twice a month.

(8) DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION:

Arranged by the County Medical Officer of Health. Immunisation of babies and young children carried out at the Primary Schools at regular intervals.

(9) INFECTIOUS DISEASES:

Total number of Infectious Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) notified during the year 3

Scarlet Fever	Nil
Bacillary Dysentry ...	Nil
Whooping Cough	2
Measles	Nil
Meningitis	1
Infantile Paralysis ...	Nil

TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES:

Pulmonary: Total - 6
Males - 3 Females - 3

Non-Pulmonary:
Males - Nil Females - Nil

TUBERCULOSIS DEATHS:

Pulmonary: Total - 1
Males - 1 Females - Nil

Non-Pulmonary: Total - Nil
Males - Nil Females - Nil

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1954
IN AGE GROUPS

Age Periods	New cases: Respiratory M	New cases: Respiratory F	New cases: Non-Respiratory M	New cases: Non-Respiratory F	Deaths: Respiratory M	Deaths: Respiratory F	Deaths: Non-Respiratory M	Deaths: Non-Respiratory F
0								
1								
2								

(continued overleaf)

Age Periods	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
5		1						
10								
15								
20	1							
25	1	2						
35								
45								
55								
65	1							
75								
Total -	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-

CAUSES OF DEATH 1954

	M	F
Tuberculosis Pulmonary	1	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
Cancer Stomach	-	2
" Lung	-	-
" Breast	-	-
" Other sites	-	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	3	5
Coronary disease, angina	3	3
Hypertension with heart disease	-	-
Other heart diseases	-	4
Other circulatory diseases ...	3	1
Influenza	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-
Bronchitis	1	-
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-
Ulcer of Stomach and duodenum ...	1	-
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1	1
Motor vehicle accidents	1	-
All other accidents	1	-
Suicide	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	1
Other malignant and Lymphatic neoplasms	2	-
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-
Total -	20	21

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st. December, 1954

To the Chairman and Members,
Barmouth Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I herewith beg to submit my Report upon the Sanitary circumstances of the District during 1954.

(1) WATER SUPPLY:

1954 was a year during which we experienced considerable difficulties in the maintenance of an adequate supply of water. Our troubles started very early in the year and they continued well after the summer season had ended.

On the 3rd February, during one of our normal inspections, we observed that the main service reservoir contained only 2 feet of water as against the usual depth of 10 feet. We continued our inspection and examined the pipeline between the reservoir and the source of supply. The overland pipeline from the Irddyn Lake outlet stream was found to be frozen solid so that no water was supplied from this source. Further upstream at Bodlyn Lake, the main source of supply, we found the lake covered over entirely with a 6 inch layer of ice and it was reasonable to assume that the supplying main also was partially frozen. During the subsequent thaw the damage to the overland pipeline became apparent and 22 pipes had to be replaced. This repair job actually involved the relaying of 200 yards of pipeline but, owing to severe weather conditions, we were not able to proceed with the work until the middle of April.

There is no doubt that the partial freezing of the supply main dislodged considerable quantities of internal encrustation in the pipes and accumulations of this material in the dips reduced the flow of water. Thus towards the end of April we started scraping operations, working down from the

main source of supply. We were most unfortunate with this work due to the inclement weather and to the setbacks caused during the operations, and the ultimate result was that the work had to be suspended after scraping roughly one mile of the pipeline.

During the last week of July the water level in the service reservoir dropped to 3 feet and we were forced to resort to pumping water into the reservoir from a nearby stream in order to maintain a reasonably satisfactory supply to the district.

During November and December some 8 miles of trunk main were scraped and the supply of water was considerably increased. It has now been proved that, in order to maintain an adequate supply of water, the whole length of the trunk main must be scraped once every two years.

The new chlorination and silicate of soda treatment plant, referred to in my previous report, was installed during the early part of the year.

The Council engaged the services of Messrs. G. W. Hill & Sons, Consulting Engineers, to:-

(1) examine and submit a report upon the condition of the masonry dam at Bodlyn Lake as required by the Water Supply (Safety of Reservoirs) Act, 1930, and

(2) examine and report generally upon the water supply system.

These two reports were submitted to the Council.

(2) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE:

Apart from routine inspection, flushing and relieving occasional blockages, comparatively little attention was given or even required to the drainage and sewerage systems of the district.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES:

The contract placed by the Council for improving and modernising the Gents' Conveniences in Marine Parade, Barmouth was not completed by the summer season as was anticipated and, in fact, it was not completed by the end of the year. The contract, because of undue delays on the part of the Contractor, was terminated and the Council themselves completed the scheme.

(3) RIVERS AND STREAMS:

There were no cases of river or stream pollution.

(4) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION:

Every dwelling in the urban district, apart from a limited number in the remoter parts, is provided with a water closet. There were no conversions from dry or earth closets into water closets.

(5) PUBLIC CLEANSING:

There were no changes in the method of collecting and disposing of refuse. During the summer months the refuse tip and the surrounding areas were infested with mosquitoes whereas in the previous summer these areas were infested with flies. Various experiments were tried out in order to reduce this nuisance but few of them were successful.

(6) SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA:

Total number of inspections	232
Notices Served - Formal	Nil
- Informal	21

Inspections:

Bakehouses	11
Cowsheds	3
Dairies	3
Milkshops	7
Ice Cream Premises	55
Fried Fish Premises ...	12
Factories	33

Inspections (continued):

Restaurants	... ...	6
Slaughterhouse	... ...	79
Blocked Drains	... ...	23

Notices served re Defective Drains:

Formal	... ...	Nil
Informal	... ...	Nil

The Sanitary Inspector's department is invariably notified of any blocked drain, and on receipt of such information, the foreman is instructed to inspect the drain. Usually he is able to relieve the blockage within a few minutes and in such cases no charge is made on the owner or occupier of the premises. Where the job takes longer than 15 minutes the cost is charged to the owner.

Camping Sites:

The number of sites in the area which were used for Camping Purposes during the year	3
The number of Camping Sites in respect of which Licences have been issued by the Local Authority under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936	1

One complaint was received concerning an unauthorised Camping Site and this was in respect of the lack of sanitary conveniences on the site. This particular site was of a temporary nature, although it was used for camping throughout the summer period. Camping parties pitched their own tents and each party stayed a week or two and provided their own canvas sanitary accommodation.

The estimated maximum number of Campers resident in the Area at any one time during the summer season	800

Smoke Abatement:

The attention of the Railway Authority was drawn to the emission of smoke from stationary railway engines.

Swimming Baths: None.

Eradication of Bed Bugs, etc.:
No action found necessary.

Schools:
Condition as in previous Annual Report.

(7) HOUSING:

Very good progress was made during the year in the erection of Council Houses. Out of the 54 houses included in the contract, 46 were completed and let whilst the remaining 8 houses were almost ready for occupation. The Council also accepted a tender for the erection of a further 26 houses on the same site. With the 54 houses referred to, the Council have now 143 post-war houses.

Under private enterprise 3 housing units were started. These included:-

(a) a block consisting of a 3 bedroom house, a large garage, and a small flat above the garage;

(b) the conversion of old stables into a dwelling.

(8) INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR:

(1)(a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for Housing defects under the Public Health and Housing Acts (excluding Council Houses) 37

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 52

(2)(a) Number of dwelling houses included under sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 Nil

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... ... Nil

(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 18

(4) Number of dwelling houses, exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 3

(5) Remedy for defects during the year without service of Formal Notice 1
Rendered fit - Informal action by Local Authority or their officers Nil

(9) ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR:

(1) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs ... ... Nil

(b) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notice

(i) by the owners ... ... Nil

(ii) by the Local Authority in default of owners ... Nil

(2) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts:

(a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs 2

(b) Number of dwelling houses in which defaults were remedied after service of Formal Notice

(i) by the owners 2

(ii) by the Local Authority in default of owners ... Nil

(3) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made Nil

(b) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders Nil

(4) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(a) Number of separate tenements or

underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made 2

(b) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... Nil

(5) Housing Act, 1936 - Part V - Overcrowding:

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 5

(ii) Number of families dwelling therein 5

(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein 22

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... ... Nil

(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... ... Nil

(ii) Number of persons concerned in above ... ... Nil

(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ... ... Nil

With reference to the 18 housing units scheduled as totally unfit for human habitation, the Closing Orders or Undertakings not to re-let were, in certain cases, subsequently determined. These include:-

Nos. 1 and 2, Aelfor Cottages where the owner of the premises submitted a scheme for the conversion of the two cottages into a single housing unit. The proposal was approved both by the Council and by the County Planning Committee and eventually the work was carried out in a most satisfactory manner.

No. 3, Goronwy Terrace: The owner submitted a scheme for improving and modernising the property. Here again the proposal was approved by the Council and by the County Planning Committee, and the work was carried out accordingly.

Flat No. 18, Victoria Buildings: This flat, comprising 3 attic rooms, could not be considered as an independent housing unit even though the rooms were structurally sound. The owner agreed with the Council that these 3 rooms should be added to those of the lower flat in order to provide additional sleeping accommodation.

Nos. 1 and 2, Cambrian Cottages: These were purchased by the Council with the intention of having them converted into a single housing unit. Plans have been prepared already.

Cambrian House: The Council also purchased these premises in order to improve and modernise them. Plans have been prepared already.

(10) INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD:

(a) Milk Supply:

Probably between 95 and 98 per cent of milk consumed in the Urban District is Grade A (T.T.) (Pasteurised), the remainder being produced locally and sold unbottled. Numerous samples both of graded and ungraded milk were submitted for analysis and in no case did a sample fail to pass the appropriate test.

(b) Ice Cream:

Samples of ice cream were taken and in all cases the results of the analyses were satisfactory. There were no street vendors and all the shops selling Ice Cream were kept in a clean condition.

(c) Meat and Other Foods:

During the first half of the year the local slaughterhouse was not in use, and all meat consumed in the Urban District was imported either from Dolgelley or Machynlleth. Government control of slaughtering passed over to private control on the 1st July and the local butchers applied to the Council to have the slaughterhouse re-opened. The Council considered the applicat-

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number of animals killed and inspected	63	21	2,673	135
All diseases except Tuberculosis: Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	No records kept. Quantities condemned not weighed.			
Tuberculosis only - whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

ion and allowed its re-opening on condition that the premises were improved and brought up to a reasonable state of fitness. The premises were duly licensed, the licence being renewable annually.

Since slaughtering passed over to local control the quality of meat has improved and there has been a considerably smaller number of infected animals brought into the slaughterhouse.

Condemned meat was not weighed as in the days of Government control. The unfit meat was thrown on one side, mixed with the unedible offal, and disposed of to a firm of dealers in such waste products.

Considerable quantities of tinned and other foodstuffs were condemned during the year. These were disposed of at the local refuse tip and buried immediately afterwards.

Yours faithfully,

E. IFOR PRICE,

Sanitary Inspector.

Camlan Duplicating Service,
Glyndŵr, Dolgelley